NOTES FROM THE
Underground

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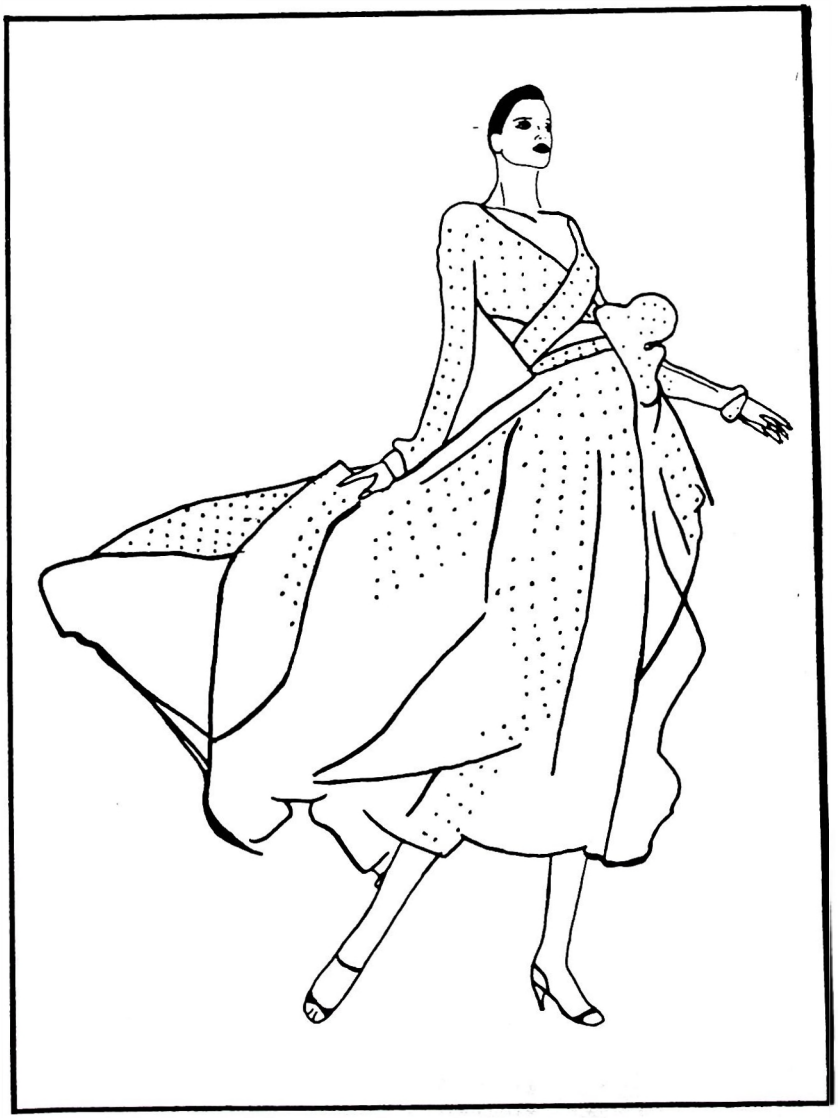

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Trans Scripts

Those of you - and you know who you are - who have discussed with me into the wee hours of the morning the nature of crossdressing will know that I have a few opinions on the subject which I hold very strongly. Actually, it's not so much crossdressing that I have strong opinions on as much as it is the position we find ourselves in and how we react to it. For the benefit of those who have missed these late night confabulations, let me play Andy Rooney for a few minutes, and forgive me if at times I appear unsympathetic.

Whenever I see crossdressers explaining themselves on talk shows, I often wish they had taken a course in media relations beforehand. When the host asks them why they wear women's clothes, I die when I hear them say "I don't know." Let's face it, this is not a trick question. If there's one thing that you can be absolutely certain they will ask, it is this. Why are we so unprepared? All that really needs to be said is the truth: "I wear them because I feel good in them." It may seem obvious, but it's worth stating. Before the show gets lost in psychosexual obfuscation, begin at the beginning. "I like these clothes."

I find that crossdressers have a kind of naivete about the mass media. They seem to think that they'll get on national television and get an objective hearing. They don't even notice when the questions are loaded.

You and I both know that the purpose of the question, "Why do you wear these clothes" is to elicit from you a complex, psychological analysis of yourself in particular and crossdressers in general. This is true regardless of whether the person asking the question is your friend or Geraldo Rivera. I don't happen to believe that you have to explain yourself to anybody and the more I hear the now-I'm-male now-I'm-female view of transvestism, I'm absolutely certain I don't want you explaining crossdressing in general.

Obviously the interview will not be going anywhere if the crossdresser being interviewed has no more to say beyond "I like these clothes." So rather than have the psychiatrist who is inevitably present on these shows explain his twisted views on crossdressing (which he's certain to do in any case), it behooves you to provide them with some more information. Would it be inappropriate to simply say, "I identify strongly in some way with women and enjoy expressing that part of my personality through these clothes"?

At this point, we diverge. My reasons for identifying with women are not the same as your reasons and I wish this point were made a little more vigorously than it has been. As crossdressers we may have the same desires, but we most certainly don't all express them the same way.

Fine. Our ideal talk show is progressing marvellously. Now it's time to bring on the psychiatrist. The first thing you'll notice about the psychiatrist is that he or she, like the host, works from the assumption that it is sociologically incorrect for the male to play anything but the role that was assigned to him. Of course, they don't actually come out and say that; it would betray their prejudices too blatantly. But listen to what they are saying! Our television cross-dresser, although rather timid in defending himself in my opinion, nevertheless does come across as a reasonably healthy, intelligent individual. This must be exposed for the lie it so evidently is. The psychiatrist asks, as she did on Geraldo, "Do you like your penis?" Or he will expound, as he did on Dini Petty, about how crossdressers can only make love in their high heels. They are obviously well read in 1950's transvestite psychoanalysis. Mean-while, our television crossdressers are sitting there listening to it all. Oh well, at least they look pretty. Wouldn't you just die if one of them didn't pass?

I don't want to say we've fumbled our chances on these talk shows. Some people have done very well, and to them I'm grateful. It's just that I'm sure television thinks it's exhausted this subject. Meanwhile I'm sitting here thinking it hasn't even scratched the surface.

Ted

Notes from the Underground
P.O. Box 7421
Vanier, Ontario
K1L 8E4
(613) 749 5203

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Thousand Islands Cruise

Lorraine and I are putting together a cruise on the Thousand Islands. I've enclosed a registration sheet detailing the event. Kingston being the hub of three major cities, it was only natural to pick this area as a means of getting the clubs together. With an attraction such as a cruise, it will be a fast sell-out. I would appreciate if you would include our flyer in the next newsletter.

Lorraine and I have been chasing around the countryside; we felt it was high time to put Kingston on the map. We hope the various club executives attend. It is a party, but with a purpose; it is a beginning of uniting the clubs together.

Lee-Anne

(A great idea! I certainly salute your initiative and am enclosing copies of the registration sheet with each newsletter. Alison.)

More Thoughts on Gender Mosaic

In the last issue of N.F.T.U., a subject came up regarding the existance of TVs and TSs in our group. I realize that the differences are there, but it should not affect our working together and socializing as we are doing now.

I know that the pamphlet was Sharon's brainchild, but if is going to be used by Gender Mosaic we should be able to modify the original idea a little to incorporate the TVs. Like everything else, things are left on the backburner until the last minute. At this time, I'd like to thank Sharon for her ideas and the time she put into it, and Niki Ross for her part in the formatting of it.

Membership in Gender Mosaic allows us to discuss the real world and issues concerning two distinct lifestyles. We try to understand them, but its not easy. Each one of us has a different idea on life and how we live it. This is what makes us so unique.

For us to separate now would be foolish. We need each other for support and friendship and to let society know that we exist. We have formed a friendship that has taken years to build. Let's not blow it. When new members join our group, they can decide for themselves which avenue to take.

As for myself, being a member of Gender Mosaic will always be an important part of my life. Having friends in the group has made my life better. Since I went into the closet and turned on the lights, I have changed my outlook on life. I now have new friends and I respect their friendship.

Joanne

Those Scandalous Sex Magazines

One of our most scandalous subjects is those glossy paged photographic extravaganzas of scantily clad TVs and pre op'd TSs. Not too many people will likely ever fess up to owning one, and really say why they might have any, and for what purpose they are being used. For our present audience, we will assume that somehow or other, we've all seen them somewhere, and we'll continue our discussion in the next paragraph.

If anyone's watching you read this, don't let them see your eyes moving down the lines: you wouldn't want them to know that you're interested in what I've got to say on the subject. You need to wear sunglasses if you're going to read this in public, and try to look as though you're looking at the other page. Better yet, buy a newspaper and hold it in front of your latest issue of NFTU.

But seriously, I actually have a valid and highly useful purpose for some of them, because I'm interested in seeing the effects of hormones on the body's contours and the shape of a pre-op TS. Why? Because I'm considering doing it myself. Every TV I know complains about the pictures showing the penis and thinks it's so awful, but did you ever notice that most of the attractive models who have some breast development never have erections? It's because they can't. Female hormones take that away. That's the price you pay for feminization. So to consider them pornographic due to their showing their XXX's is kind of irrelevant to me.

I find some of the pictures give me hope that hormones could have a nice effect on a male. If I see someone who looks really convincing, it gives me faith that it is possible that I could one day reach that level. A lot of TVs like to wear clothes to try and pass as a woman. I want to pass in the nude.

I only bought two or three of those instantly hideable magazines, but over the years a few people have given me a few. I guess they figure they'll safely get them off their hands so that in case of death, they wouldn't have to worry about where those magazines were. So they just gave them to me.

So for me some of those forbidden magazines that you have to buy with your eyes lowered at some back alley store from some suspicious owner of questionable character are useful. It's only occasionally though that you see good ones who aren't just dressed up men. Generally I consider the glossy TV/TS sex magazine trade to be a rip off that is sensationalist and, I think, very sexist and degrading to women. The one good thing about the better ones is they show the effects of female hormone therapy on a TS male.

Sharon

Club News

Illusions Social Club has expanded and now has a chapter in Edmonton. They have over 100 members and have a club newsletter which has evolved into a newstand publication (4 dollars per copy). Bree from Calgary and Marsha from Edmonton sent me several copies if members would like to have a look.

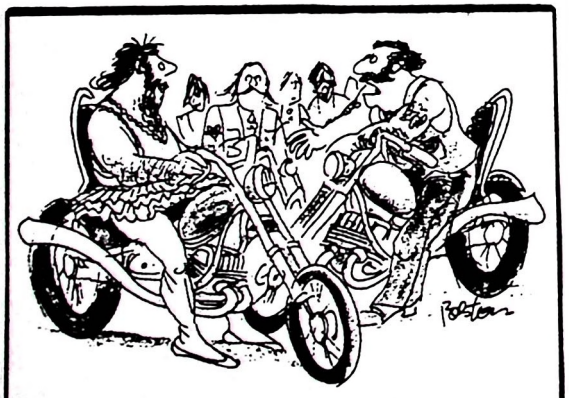
They also have several other business ventures on the go,. including a feminization salon and make up video. Please note the new address for Illusions Calgary.

Wildside Inc. and the Toronto Crossdressers Club announce their first annual weekend getaway June 21st to June 23rd. Cost for the complete package starts at $255.00 and includes two nights at the Brownstone Hotel, two American breakfasts, two workshops, and dinner/show on Saturday night. Call or write for the Wildside event brochure and registration package.

Take a Walk on the Wildside Inc. and the Toronto Crossdressers Club are not non-profit organizations. They have invested nearly $100,000 in their present operation and are making plans for expansion to better serve the crossdressing community in the future. They have a boutique, a makeover service, a Bed and Breakfast and a club, all under one roof.

Thank You

A quick word of thanks, possible only because once again I've missed my deadline, to Sandy and Karen for the wonderful day in the country on Saturday May 4th. Making new friends is always great, but your hospitality and peaceful retreat in the pines made it special. Thank you!



"I said get a *tattoo*, stupid!"

Clubs in Canada

Cornbury Society
Box 3745
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 3Z1

Phi Sigma - Tri-Ess
Box 803
6808 Ogden Road S.E.
Calgary, AB T2H 1B4

Illusions Social Club
Box 2000
6808 Ogden Road S.E.
Calgary, AB T2C 1B4

Illusions Social Club
Box 33002, Glenwood P.O.
Edmonton, AB T5P 4V8
(403) 486 9661

Monarch Social Club
Mississauga "A"
Box 386
Mississauga, Ont. L5A 3A1

Toronto Crossdressers Club
429C Dundas Street East
Toronto, Ont. M5A 2A9
(416) 864 0420

Gender Mosaic
P.O. Box 7421
Ottawa (Vanier), Ont. K1L 8E4
(613) 749 5203

Montreal Club
Info: (514) 528 8874

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For more information contact:
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P. O. Box 7241
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Come to Atlanta and Have a Peach of a Time!

Male Suicides Increase

The rate of suicides among Canadian men jumped dramatically over the past 20 years, rising by nearly 42 per cent, a federal study has revealed. But the rate of suicides among Canadian women remained nearly constant over the same period, said the Statistics Canada report.

The report does not analyse why rates increased, but simply states the data. However, the increase follows an international trend. The World Health Organization has reported suicide rates among both men and women have been on the rise since 1950.

Tyson Homo?

Mike Tyson made enough below-the-belt references to homosexuality in his pre-bout news conference with Donovan (Razor) Ruddock that Ruddock said he thought the former heavyweight champion was "trying to get up the nerve to come out of the closet." "I'll come out of bed with girls to fight you," said Tyson. "I know you're really a transvestite and really like me." Some news reports claimed Tyson said he would make Ruddock his "girlfriend" on the 28th. Said Ruddock: "Do I have to sit here and listen to this moron?"

Divine Justice

A heterosexual man who beat homosexuals became infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, from the blood of his victims, Britain's *Lancet* medical journal reported.

The case initially baffled doctors as the man had not been exposed to any of the usual causes of the virus. He had been impotent for 10 years, received no blood transfusions and used a sterile needle on the one occasion he took intravenous drugs. His wife had no trace of HIV infection.

The man only revealed later that he used to go out with friends in New York and New Jersery and systematically beat gay men. The man often had "large amounts" of his victims blood on his skin and sustained small cuts on his hands.

Lord Lipstick

The queen's nephew has shocked British royals by wearing lipstick and kissing another kind of queen - a drag queen!

Lord David Linley, 13th in line to the British throne, was marking the opening of his London restaurant, Deals West. He was delighted when crossdressers started arriving from a nearby club called Madame Jo-Jo's. Linley, who makes his living manufacturing furniture, is trying to be the first royal to make it big in the business world. His restaurant venture is in partnership with the queen's cousin, photographer Lord Patrick Lichfield.

The theme of the party was the colour red. Lots of people wore red dresses - most of them men. The waiters were wearing blonde wigs and women's clothes.

"Linley was in his element," said one guest. "Loud music, drag queens, champagne and beautiful women. He loved every second of it."

A Palace insider says the queen was not happy. "She knows he's an off-the-wall guy, but she's not amused. Especially when she sees pictures of her nephew kissing other men."

More from Britain

Judy found this ad in an English newspaper, and no, it wasn't the Times of London.

Bad Rule for German TV's

A couple in Frankfurt recently discovered that while Schroder is a perfectly common last name, it is verboten as a boy's name in Germany. City officials nixed the couple's plan to name their child after the Beethoven-obsessed young pianist of the Peanuts comic strip because the name is not sex specific.

"It is up to the individual city clerk to decide whether a name is acceptable," said Beate Hogenschurz, the clerk in Bonn who approves child's names. "Our only real rule is that a name must indicate the gender of the child." If Germans choose foreign names for their offspring, clerks ring up the embassy of the country of origin. If the embassy doesn't know the name, it's out.

Sheesh! Lighten up fellas!

Tripping Through the Tabloids

The best crossdressing and transsexual tales are frequently found in the tabloids. The editors of these papers know a good, prurient story when they see one, and they tell it with great gusto and not a little editorializing.

Consider, for example, our ex-fighter pilot, who won a "chestful of medals for bravery" but is now reduced to sobbing for her job. I think her mistake may have been when she told her bosses, "I'm Kristina. Fly me!" I hope this lesson is not lost on all of you following in Kristina's footsteps. A little tact, please!

In my perusal of these clippings (for which I must thank Sharon who has been diligently clipping them for me), it struck me how often the editors manage to combine these astounding tales with marriage. Our fighter pilot knew on the day he was married that the only cure for him was a sex change operation, which of course begs the question, why were you getting married? Ah, I see, his wife decided that she could change him. It's all her fault.

And what the heck do you suppose they mean by the "Unkindest Cut" anyway?

Fortunately, some women discover the truth just in time. I know I'd be writing the tabloids for advice the moment my prince charming announced to me he'd really prefer to be in panties. Sensible advice by Trudy too, I must admit, although you never know. Rather than "ruin his life", her family might like him anyway. What a radical idea that is, to be judged by who you are rather than what you wear.

On that note, we move from rejection to every crossdressers fantasy: marrying the woman of your dreams and wearing a wedding dress too! Life's not fair!

Last on our journey, we stop in to visit poor Ian Haynes, the computer instructor who walks like a miner. Now, I hate to quibble here, but just how long is one a groom? I kind of thought you were pretty well through with it the day after your wedding. Let's be fair now, at least he didn't know "the cure" on the day he was married. It took eighteen months, which is eighteen more than Kristina managed. Give the man some credit. But please, give his wife a little more.

Ian's greatest sin seems to be that he makes a lousy woman, but don't pity him for that. The real crime is he's paying $8,000 for his operation while Kristina paid $7,000 for hers.

Ted

All items compiled by Sharon.

UNKINDEST CUT: PILOT FIRED AFTER SEX CHANGE

AIRLINE pilot Ian Livingstone's career took a nosedive when he told his bosses: "I'm Kristina. Fly me!"

The ex-fighter ace was bombed out of jobs after a sex-swap operation robbed him of his joystick and turned him into a shapely, 39-27-36 blonde.

Kristina, 44, won a chestful of medals for bravery in the air, but faces another battle as she takes a sex discrimination claim to Britain's Equal Opportunities Commission.

"I'm highly qualified, with 27 years' flying experience," she sobs. "But the airlines think I'm a pervert and have barred me from the air.

"I've been turned down for more than 30 jobs. I had a double handicap — not only am I a woman, I'm a transsexual."

Dodging flak

Kristina, who was once a married man and has an 11-year-old daughter, began her flying career with the Royal Air Force. Then she joined the Rhodesian Air Force in Africa, dodging flak on bombing missions against rebels.

But all along, she was a woman trapped in a man's body. "I knew from childhood that some cruel trick of nature had been played on me," she says.

Despite her sexual confusion, she fell in love with a student nurse named Mary and got married.

"Mary decided that she could change me," says Kristina. "But I knew on my wedding day the only cure for me was a sex-change operation.

"I fought to make the marriage work," Kristina recalls. "We had a normal sex life because my body still had male urges."

As Captain Ian Livingstone, she was decorated twice for bravery before returning to Britain as a captain with Britannia Airways. Finally, she and Mary split up.

"On my 40th birthday, I stepped outside my home wearing a blonde wig, red dress and high heels," Kristina recalls. "It felt so natural. I've lived as a woman ever since."

Her shocked bosses at Britannia fired Kristina, who's now divorced from Mary and has undergone a grueling $7,000 operation to have her male sex organs removed.

"When they took off the bandages, I was horrified," she admits. "But now I enjoy being attractive to men. I know what men like because I've been one — and it was interesting to look at the ceiling instead of at the pillow!"

CAUGHT IN DRAG

Must I tell why I broke off with transvestite?

Dear Trudy:

A short time ago I met a tall, dark, handsome man who I thought was the prince charming I'd been looking for all my life. He swept me off my feet and after a whirlwind romance we decided to marry. That was until I discovered he likes to wear panties. He said they were more comfortable than men's shorts, and he confessed to cross dressing when he was at home. It turned me off and I broke our engagement on the spot. I'm getting a lot of flack from my family because they had been delighted when we announced our engagement. But I'm afraid if I tell the reason for our breakup it could ruin his life. What should I do?

Disappointed Cinderella

Dear Cinderella:

Keep the reason for calling the engagement off to yourself. You don't owe anyone an explanation.

...'s gown was gorgeous and so was the groom's

THE bride had her nails done and her hair frosted. Then she slipped into her pumps and stunning $6,000 wedding dress and veil. So did the groom.

Then Donna (right), the owner of a beauty salon, tied the knot with her cross-dressing husband, Bob, an artist who likes to be called Robin. Donna and Robin met several years ago at a convention of cross-dressers. The couple's unusual marriage is the highlight of Sally Jessy Raphael's February 20 show, "I'm Prettier Than My Wife," which focuses on cross-dressers — heterosexual men who love to dress up in women's clothes.

Groom shocks bride: 'I want a sex change!'

• IAN HAYNES in a skirt: 'My life has been a sham'

NEWLYWEDS IAN and Liz Haynes are already going through troubled times — ever since the handsome groom announced he wants to be a woman.

"My wife has been handling this very well, but it's too early to tell whether we'll stay together or not," says Ian, 30. "Obviously my decision has come as a great shock to her."

Treatments

Ian dropped the bombshell just 18 months after the wedding. He carefully applied makeup to his rugged face, went to a beauty parlor for a permanent wave and now insists on being called Carol.

"My life as a man has been a sham for a long time and I've just decided to do something about it," he says.

Ian is having hormone treatments and plans to undergo an $8,000 sex-change operation shortly. He and Liz, 29, still live together, but they sleep in separate bedrooms.

If Ian's sex swap decision stunned his wife, it really knocked the folks at at Amersham College in England for a loop.

A computer instructor there, he announced his change of status by simply wiggling into class one day dressed as a woman and saying: "Just call me Carol."

Both students and teachers are now having a big chuckle over the gender bender.

"When Ian walked in here dressed to the nines I nearly wet myself laughing," says one of the faculty members.

Snickering

"He walks more like a miner than a woman."

Students have taunted Ian with a barrage of catcalls and whistles ever since he began wearing dresses and toting a handbag.

"I think he'll leave the college because everyone makes fun of him as he walks down the hall," says an 18-year-old freshman.

But Ian is sticking with his decision to become a full-fledged woman.

"We live in a modern society and this sort of thing happens all the time," he says. "I don't see what all the fuss is about."

Although I'm in my mid 30's, sometimes I feel like an old coot. I still remember vividly when the sexes seemed to be moving toward each other, when "do your own thing" was an acceptable philosophy and when advertisers could talk about a man's "blouse" without fear of having their sales plummet. Times change. (Photo from the 48th Annual of Advertising, Editorial and Television Art & Design, 1969.)